

REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are all the claims pending in the application.

I. Response to Rejections

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as allegedly being anticipated by Hotta '257.

Claims 1-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Hotta et al., U.S. 2003/0165768 A1 ("Hotta '768").

Applicants claim priority to JP 2002-277295 filed in Japan on September 24, 2002, which precedes the effective date of Hotta '257 of April 9, 2003. Applicants' priority document also precedes the effective date of Hotta '768 of October 7, 2002.

A certified English translation of JP 2002-277295 is submitted herewith in compliance with 37 CFR §1.55, to perfect Applicants' claim for priority. The rejected claims of the present claims are supported by the priority document as follows:

| Claims of the Present Application | Support in JP 2002-277295 |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Claim 1 | Claim 1 |
| Claim 2 | Claim 2 |
| Claim 3 | Claim 3 |
| Claim 4 | Claim 3 |
| Claim 5 | Claim 4 |
| Claim 6 | Claim 4 |
| Claim 7 | Claim 5 |
| Claim 8 | Claim 5 |

In view of the above, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections.

II. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO. 10/662,329

ATTY DKT Q75433

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

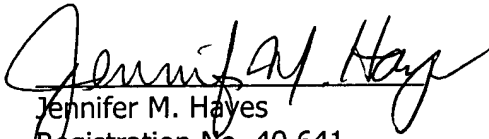
Respectfully submitted,

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Date: May 11, 2005